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 $360 million to more than 8,145 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, granteeproduced information products and other educational materials.

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, and search for project number ES12-113.

SARE in Mississippi

southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/mississippi

$2,553,260 in total funding

47 grant projects

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to www.sare.org/state-summaries
SARE Grants in Mississippi

Total awards: **47 grants**

- 4 Sustainable Community Innovation
- 14 Professional Development Program
- 11 Farmer/Rancher
- 4 Graduate Student
- 12 Research and Education
- 2 On Farm Research/Partnership

Total funding: **$2,553,260**

- $64,348 Sustainable Community Innovation
- $1,116,533 Professional Development Program
- $122,783 Farmer/Rancher
- $47,722 Graduate Student
- $1,167,098 Research and Education
- $34,776 On Farm Research/Partnership

Find a complete list of projects on page 3.

SARE's Impact

53 percent of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

79 percent of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

64 percent of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

Learn about local impacts at: 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-pages/mississippi to learn more.

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Mississippi State University
(662) 325-0123
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
AGRICULTURE PROJECTS FUNDED IN MISSISSIPPI
by USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

Mississippi has been awarded $2,553,260 grants to support 47 projects, including but not limited to, 12 research and/or education projects, 14 professional development projects and 11 producer-led projects. Mississippi has also received additional SARE support through multi-state projects.

### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LS22-379</td>
<td>Small Farm IPM Training Workshop For Underserved Communities</td>
<td>$22,898</td>
<td>Dr. Daniel Collins&lt;br&gt;Alcorn State University&lt;br&gt;Dr. Tahir Rashid&lt;br&gt;Alcorn State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS21-352</td>
<td>Training MS Farmers and Producers with Alternative Farming Practices Including Intercropping</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Calvin Head&lt;br&gt;Milestone Cooperative Association&lt;br&gt;Tom Collins&lt;br&gt;West Holmes Community Development Organization (WHCDO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS20-325</td>
<td>Scaling Up Production and Local Marketing for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers</td>
<td>$49,777</td>
<td>Felicia Bell&lt;br&gt;NCAT Gulf States, Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS09-215</td>
<td>Developing low-cost sustainable sweet potato production strategies to facilitate adoption in the mid-south</td>
<td>$185,000</td>
<td>Dr. Ramon Arancibia&lt;br&gt;University of Missouri Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS05-171</td>
<td>Certified Forests: preparing private landowners for the future</td>
<td>$102,000</td>
<td>Glenn Hughes&lt;br&gt;Mississippi State University Extension Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS02-135</td>
<td>Values, Attitudes and Perceptions of Forestry Constituency Groups Relative to Sustainable Forestry in the South</td>
<td>$17,969</td>
<td>Stephen Grado&lt;br&gt;Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS01-125</td>
<td>Sustainable Vegetable Production in Rural Mississippi</td>
<td>$133,187</td>
<td>Dr. Franklin Chukwuma&lt;br&gt;Alcorn State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS01-129</td>
<td>Developing Strategies for Education of Underserved Forest Landowners</td>
<td>$169,875</td>
<td>Glenn Hughes&lt;br&gt;Mississippi State University Extension Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS96-073</td>
<td>Soil Conservation and Pest Management Impacts of Grass Hedges</td>
<td>$137,352</td>
<td>Seth M. Dabney&lt;br&gt;USDA-ARS National Sedimentation Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS93-055</td>
<td>Cover Crop Integration Into Conservation Production Systems For Cotton and Sorghum</td>
<td>$135,540</td>
<td>Seth M. Dabney&lt;br&gt;USDA-ARS National Sedimentation Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS91-041</td>
<td>Uniform Spray Deposits for Reduced Pesticide Use in Weed and Insect Control Operations</td>
<td>$43,500</td>
<td>David R. Shaw&lt;br&gt;Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS89-012</td>
<td>Enhancing Farmer Adoption and Refining of a Low-input Soybean-Wheat System</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>Normie W. Buehring&lt;br&gt;Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPDP22-016</td>
<td>Training Agriculture Professionals and Educators to Support Diversified Vegetable Farmers with Cost Analysis</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>Tanya Murray, Oregon Tilth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPDP21-07</td>
<td>Profitability, Viability, and Sustainability of Pasture-Based Dairy Farms: The Southern Dairy Sustainability Network</td>
<td>$79,737</td>
<td>Dr. Amanda Stone, Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES20-156</td>
<td>Meat Chemistry and Cuisine: Using a proven method to train extension agents and other professionals serving small-scale and limited resource producers</td>
<td>$80,805</td>
<td>Dr. Derris Burnett, PHD Animal and Dairy Sciences Mississippi State Univer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES20-153</td>
<td>Improving Conservation Practices and Soil Health in Sweet Potato through Cover-It-Up</td>
<td>$65,220</td>
<td>Dr. Bill Burdine, Mississippi State University Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES18-138</td>
<td>Growing Your Local Food System and Its Brands</td>
<td>$79,999</td>
<td>James Barnes, Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES17-132</td>
<td>Cover It Up: Train-the-trainer program to expand knowledge and utilization of cover crops in Mississippi</td>
<td>$65,222</td>
<td>Dr. Bill Burdine, Mississippi State University Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES17-131</td>
<td>Transition to Sustainability in Small-Scale Vegetable Production: Hands-on training for agriculture professionals and educators</td>
<td>$79,520</td>
<td>Keith Benson, Alliance of Sustainable Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>ES16-127</td>
<td>Reducing Water Usage and Energy Costs Through Improved Irrigation Management</td>
<td>$76,656</td>
<td>Dr. R. Curt Lacy, Mississippi State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>ES16-126</td>
<td>Grass-Fed Beef in the Southeast: from Seed to Plate</td>
<td>$83,185</td>
<td>Dr. Brandi Karisch, Mississippi State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>ES16-125</td>
<td>Sustainability Training in Agricultural Resources Systems (STARS): A Train-the-Trainer Model for Agriculture and Natural Resources Professionals</td>
<td>$78,269</td>
<td>Leslie Burger, Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES12-113</td>
<td>Building the Capacity of Educators to Help Women Farmers and Ranchers in Southern States Improve Agricultural Sustainability Using ANNIES Methodologies</td>
<td>$79,100</td>
<td>Dr. Bobbie Shaffett, Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES09-098</td>
<td>Strengthening the Goat Industry: A National Goat Conference</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>Angela McKenzie-Jakes, Florida A&amp;M University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES04-073</td>
<td>Train the Trainer: a holistic approach to Integrated Resource Management and Grassland Revitalization</td>
<td>$93,908</td>
<td>Charles Flowers, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Jane Parish, Mississippi State University Extension Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Enhancing Strawberry Production by Integrating Rabbit Production to Decrease Fertilizer Use, increase Sustainability and Profit

**Project #:** FS21-329  
**Support:** $14,909  
**Principal Investigator:** Stephen Wyatt  
**Affiliation:** SLEWZ LLC

### From the Ground to Town

**Project #:** FS13-269  
**Support:** $14,965  
**Principal Investigator:** Joe Barnes  
**Affiliation:** Indian Springs Farmers Association

### Comparing Native Grass Species to Bahiagrass as a Forage Hay Crop

**Project #:** FS11-256  
**Support:** $9,982  
**Principal Investigator:** Tulon McKee, Jr.  
**Affiliation:** McKee Farm

### Late Summer Crop Development Project

**Project #:** FS10-242  
**Support:** $8,350  
**Principal Investigator:** Rickey Cole

### Building a Market for Local Produce in the Foodservice Industry

**Project #:** FS09-236  
**Support:** $14,965  
**Principal Investigator:** Andre Mathews  
**Affiliation:** Family Farmers Cooperative

### Silvopasture for forage, cattle and trees

**Project #:** FS05-191  
**Support:** $9,950  
**Principal Investigator:** John Keeler

### Soil nutrient and organic matter improvement and maintenance in a crop rotation system

**Project #:** FS01-134  
**Support:** $6,422  
**Principal Investigator:** Hilbert W. Gramelspacher

### Developing IPM Practices for Sweet Potatoes in Mississippi

**Project #:** FS00-113  
**Support:** $10,000  
**Principal Investigator:** Allen Crostwait

### Developing Marketing Strategies For Culinary and Medicinal Herbs

**Project #:** FS00-118  
**Support:** $15,000  
**Principal Investigator:** Ben Burkett  
**Affiliation:** Indian Springs Farmers Association

### Grasslands Matua and Grassland Gala in the Tennessee Valley as an Alternative to Fescue and Ryegrass

**Project #:** FS96-041  
**Support:** $9,900  
**Principal Investigator:** Tulon McKee, Jr.  
**Affiliation:** McKee Farm

### Demonstration of No-Till Cotton Production Using Best Management Practices

**Project #:** FS95-023  
**Support:** $8,295  
**Principal Investigator:** Charles Donald  
**Affiliation:** Donald Farms

### Factors Affecting In-field Soil Moisture Variability and Its Effect on Irrigation

**Project #:** GS19-214  
**Support:** $10,845  
**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Mary Love Tagert  
**Affiliation:** Mississippi State University  
**Co-investigator:** Blade Hodges  
**Affiliation:** Mississippi State University

### Investigation of a Low-external-input Sustainable Rice Production System to Identify Ecosystem Services Towards Adoption Costs and Benefits

**Project #:** GS17-166  
**Support:** $16,476  
**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Beth Baker  
**Affiliation:** Mississippi State University  
**Co-investigator:** Alexandra Firth  
**Affiliation:** Mississippi State University

### Evaluating Conversion of Exotic Grass Pastures to Native Warm-Season Grass: Profitability Analysis and Response of Wildlife and Imported Fire Ants

**Project #:** GS12-116  
**Support:** $10,467  
**Principal Investigator:** Dr. Sam Riffell  
**Affiliation:** Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture  
**Co-investigator:** Adrian Monroe  
**Affiliation:** Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Aquaculture

### Economic, agronomic, and ecological costs/benefits of field border management practices in agricultural systems of Mississippi

**Project #:** GS01-007  
**Support:** $9,934  
**Principal Investigator:** L. Wes Burger, Jr.  
**Affiliation:** Mississippi State University, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

### GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

<table>
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| 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 |
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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

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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 |
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANTS

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

Total funding from the USDA SARE program to Mississippi
$2,553,260

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