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 $310 million to more than 7,434 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

$2,226,589 in total funding

37 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: 37 grants
10 Farmer/Rancher
4 Graduate Student
1 On Farm Research/Partnership
12 Professional Development Program
10 Research and Education

Total funding: $2,226,589
$107,874 Farmer/Rancher
$47,722 Graduate Student
$14,997 On Farm Research/Partnership
$961,796 Professional Development Program
$1,094,200 Research and Education

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.

John Blanton
Mississippi State University
(662) 325-2802
john.blanton@msstate.edu

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

For detailed information on SARE projects, go to www.SARE.org

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.
Mississippi has been awarded $2,290,937 grants to support 41 projects, including but not limited to, 10 research and/or education projects, 12 professional development projects and 10 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>LS20-325</td>
<td>Scaling Up Production and Local Marketing for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers</td>
<td>$49,777</td>
<td>Felicia Bell 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>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>
</tbody>
</table>
**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

**ES16-125**  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  Brandi Karisch  Mississippi State University

**ES16-127**  Reducing Water Usage and Energy Costs Through Improved Irrigation Management  $76,656  Curt Lacy  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


**FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 |
Soil nutrient and organic matter improvement and maintenance in a crop rotation system

Developing IPM Practices for Sweet Potatoes in Mississippi

Developing Marketing Strategies For Culinary and Medicinal Herbs

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

Demonstration of No-Till Cotton Production Using Best Management Practices

**GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS**

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

**ON FARM RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OS12-068</td>
<td>Biological Control of Proliferative Gill Disease in Farm-Raised Catfish</td>
<td>$14,997</td>
<td>David Wise, MSU-NWAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</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, Mississippi Food Policy Council, Nancy Woodruff, 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, Pinebelt Association for Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS08-061</td>
<td>Mentoring Today for Tomorrow</td>
<td>$9,348</td>
<td>Ben Burkett, Indian Springs Farmers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS04-026</td>
<td>Four County Farmers Market</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Cynthia Wilson, Webster Co. Development Council, Inc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total funding from the USDA SARE program to
Mississippi
$2,290,937

For further information on projects, contact Candace Pollock, Southern SARE public relations coordinator, at (770) 412-4786 or cpollock@uga.edu.
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is funded by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).