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 $404 million to more than 8,774 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.

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

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

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
SARE in Mississippi

Grants awarded 2019–2024

Total awards: **15 grants**

1. Farmer/Rancher
2. Research and Education
3. Professional Development Program
4. On Farm Research/Partnership
5. Graduate Student
6. 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/

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/ to learn more.

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

Leyla Rios de Alvarez  
Mississippi State University  
(662) 325-0123  
leyla.rios@msstate.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 $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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 University  
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPDP24-028</td>
<td>Farm to Freezer: An immersive train-the-trainer program for extension agents, producers, and processors in the SE farm-direct beef and goat industries</td>
<td>$79,820</td>
<td>Dr.Derris Burnett, PHD Animal and Dairy Sciences Mississippi State Univer&lt;br&gt;Dr.Clarissa Harris Tuskegee University&lt;br&gt;Dr.Brandi Karisch Mississippi State University&lt;br&gt;Dr.Leyla Rios Department of Animal &amp; Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPDP22-16</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>Code</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
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</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>Jamie Larson</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</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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES18-138</td>
<td>Growing Your Local Food System and Its Brands</td>
<td>$79,999</td>
<td>James Barnes</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</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</td>
</tr>
<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</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</td>
</tr>
<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</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</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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project #</td>
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</tr>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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 |
Alcorn Cooperative Extension Program |
|           | **FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS**                                                     |              |                                                      |
| 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 |
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<tr>
<td>FS96-041</td>
<td>Grasslands Matua and Grassland Gala in the Tennessee Valley as an Alternative to Fescue and Ryegrass</td>
<td>$9,900</td>
<td>Tulon McKee, Jr. McKee Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS95-023</td>
<td>Demonstration of No-Till Cotton Production Using Best Management Practices</td>
<td>$8,295</td>
<td>Charles Donald Donald Farms</td>
</tr>
<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>
<tr>
<td>OS24-180</td>
<td>Kiko Buck Test in the Southeast. Helping farmers to have a sustainable meat goat business.</td>
<td>$29,999</td>
<td>Dr. Leyla Rios Department of Animal &amp; Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS22-155</td>
<td>Enhancing Soil Organic Carbon Storage using Cover Crops in the Mississippi Delta</td>
<td>$19,779</td>
<td>Varun Paul Mississippi State University</td>
</tr>
<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>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Project #</th>
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</table>
| EDS22-35  | Small Farm IPM Training Workshop For Underserved Communities                  | $22,838      | Dr.Daniel Collins  
Alcorn State University  
Dr.Tahir Rashid  
Alcorn State University |
| EDS21-31  | Training MS Farmers and Producers with Alternative Farming Practices Including Intercropping | $50,000      | Calvin Head  
Milestone 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 |

**Total funding from the USDA SARE program to Mississippi**

$3,834,944

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).