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 $333 million to more than 7,775 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 in Mississippi

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

$2,435,583 in total funding

44 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: 44 grants
- 4 Sustainable Community Innovation
- 13 Professional Development Program
- 11 Farmer/Rancher
- 4 Graduate Student
- 11 Research and Education
- 1 On Farm Research/Partnership

Total funding: $2,435,583
- $64,348 Sustainable Community Innovation
- $1,041,533 Professional Development Program
- $122,783 Farmer/Rancher
- $47,722 Graduate Student
- $1,144,200 Research and Education
- $14,997 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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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 $2,435,583 grants to support 44 projects, including but not limited to, 11 research and/or education projects, 13 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>LS21-352</td>
<td>Training MS Farmers and Producers with Alternative Farming Practices Including Intercropping</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Calvin Head, Mileston Cooperative Association, Tom Collins, 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, 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>LS01-129</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>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>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>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>
Improving Conservation Practices and Soil Health in Sweet Potato through Cover-It-Up $65,220 Dr. Bill Burdine Mississippi State University Extension

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 University

Growing Your Local Food System and Its Brands $79,999 James Barnes Mississippi State University

Transition to Sustainability in Small-Scale Vegetable Production: Hands-on training for agriculture professionals and educators $79,520 Keith Benson Alliance of Sustainable Farms

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

Grass-Fed Beef in the Southeast: from Seed to Plate $83,185 Dr. Brandi Karisch Mississippi State University

Reducing Water Usage and Energy Costs Through Improved Irrigation Management $76,656 Curt Lacy Mississippi State University

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

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

Strengthening the Goat Industry: A National Goat Conference $80,000 Angela McKenzie-Jakes Florida A&M University

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


**FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS21-329</td>
<td>Enhancing Strawberry Production by Integrating Rabbit Production to Decrease Fertilizer Use, increase Sustainability and Profit</td>
<td>$14,909</td>
<td>Stephen Wyatt SLEWZ LLC</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS13-269</td>
<td>From the Ground to Town</td>
<td>$14,965</td>
<td>Joe Barnes Indian Springs Farmers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS11-256</td>
<td>Comparing Native Grass Species to Bahiagrass as a Forage Hay Crop</td>
<td>$9,982</td>
<td>Tulon McKee, Jr. McKee Farm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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
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
The East Hattiesburg Fresh Food on the Block Program | $10,000 | Sylvia Forster  
| Pinebelt Association for Families |

Mentoring Today for Tomorrow | $9,348 | Ben Burkett  
| Indian Springs Farmers Association |

Four County Farmers Market | $10,000 | Cynthia Wilson  
| Webster Co. Development Council, Inc. |

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

$2,435,583

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).