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 $389 million to more than 8,542 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

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

$2,925,200 in total funding

48 grant projects

(since 1988)

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

www.sare.org
SARE Grants in Mississippi

Total awards: 48 grants

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

Total funding: $2,925,200

- $64,348 Sustainable Community Innovation
- $1,116,533 Professional Development Program
- $122,783 Farmer/Rancher
- $47,722 Graduate Student
- $1,416,423 Research and Education
- $34,776 On Farm Research/Partnership
- $122,615 Education Only

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.

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 $2,925,200 grants to support 48 projects, including but not limited to, 10 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>LS23-377</td>
<td>Characterizing the myology (muscle profile) of meat goat carcasses to improve value-added processing and retail consumption in farm-to-fork marketing</td>
<td>$372,000</td>
<td>Dr.Derris Burnett, PHD Animal and Dairy Sciences Mississippi State Univer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr.Clarissa Harris Tuskegee University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr.Leyla Rios Department of Animal &amp; Dairy Sciences at Mississippi State University</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. Dahney 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. Dahney 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>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>
</tbody>
</table>
### Profitability, Viability, and Sustainability of Pasture-Based Dairy Farms: The Southern Dairy Sustainability Network

**Project #:** SPDP21-07  
**Project Title:** Profitability, Viability, and Sustainability of Pasture-Based Dairy Farms: The Southern Dairy Sustainability Network  
**SARE Support:** $79,737  
**Project Leader:** Dr. Amanda Stone, Mississippi State University

### Improving Conservation Practices and Soil Health in Sweet Potato through Cover-It-Up

**Project #:** ES20-153  
**Project Title:** Improving Conservation Practices and Soil Health in Sweet Potato through Cover-It-Up  
**SARE Support:** $65,220  
**Project Leader:** 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

**Project #:** ES20-156  
**Project Title:** Meat Chemistry and Cuisine: Using a proven method to train extension agents and other professionals serving small-scale and limited resource producers  
**SARE Support:** $80,805  
**Project Leader:** Dr. Derris Burnett, PhD, Animal and Dairy Sciences Mississippi State University

### Growing Your Local Food System and Its Brands

**Project #:** ES18-138  
**Project Title:** Growing Your Local Food System and Its Brands  
**SARE Support:** $79,999  
**Project Leader:** James Barnes, Mississippi State University

### Transition to Sustainability in Small-Scale Vegetable Production: Hands-on training for agriculture professionals and educators

**Project #:** ES17-131  
**Project Title:** Transition to Sustainability in Small-Scale Vegetable Production: Hands-on training for agriculture professionals and educators  
**SARE Support:** $79,520  
**Project Leader:** Keith Benson, Alliance of Sustainable Farms

### Cover It Up: Train-the-trainer program to expand knowledge and utilization of cover crops in Mississippi

**Project #:** ES17-132  
**Project Title:** Cover It Up: Train-the-trainer program to expand knowledge and utilization of cover crops in Mississippi  
**SARE Support:** $65,222  
**Project Leader:** Dr. Bill Burdine, Mississippi State University Extension

### Reducing Water Usage and Energy Costs Through Improved Irrigation Management

**Project #:** ES16-127  
**Project Title:** Reducing Water Usage and Energy Costs Through Improved Irrigation Management  
**SARE Support:** $76,656  
**Project Leader:** Dr. R. Curt Lacy, Mississippi State University

### Grass-Fed Beef in the Southeast: from Seed to Plate

**Project #:** ES16-126  
**Project Title:** Grass-Fed Beef in the Southeast: from Seed to Plate  
**SARE Support:** $83,185  
**Project Leader:** Dr. Brandi Karisch, Mississippi State University

### Sustainability Training in Agricultural Resources Systems (STARS): A Train-the-Trainer Model for Agriculture and Natural Resources Professionals

**Project #:** ES16-125  
**Project Title:** Sustainability Training in Agricultural Resources Systems (STARS): A Train-the-Trainer Model for Agriculture and Natural Resources Professionals  
**SARE Support:** $78,269  
**Project Leader:** 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

**Project #:** ES12-113  
**Project Title:** Building the Capacity of Educators to Help Women Farmers and Ranchers in Southern States Improve Agricultural Sustainability Using ANNIES Methodologies  
**SARE Support:** $79,100  
**Project Leader:** Dr. Bobbie Shaffett, Mississippi State University

### Strengthening the Goat Industry: A National Goat Conference

**Project #:** ES09-098  
**Project Title:** Strengthening the Goat Industry: A National Goat Conference  
**SARE Support:** $80,000  
**Project Leader:** Angela McKenzie-Jakes, Florida A&M University

### Training the Trainer: a holistic approach to Integrated Resource Management and Grassland Revitalization

**Project #:** ES04-073  
**Project Title:** Training the Trainer: a holistic approach to Integrated Resource Management and Grassland Revitalization  
**SARE Support:** $93,908  
**Project Leader:** Charles Flowers, Mississippi State University Extension Service  
**Co-Leader:** Jane Parish, Mississippi State University Extension Service

### Training in Sustainable Systems Approach to Production, Harvesting, Processing and Marketing of Value Added Syrup Crops in MS and Surrounding States

**Project #:** ES98-041  
**Project Title:** Training in Sustainable Systems Approach to Production, Harvesting, Processing and Marketing of Value Added Syrup Crops in MS and Surrounding States  
**SARE Support:** $99,912  
**Project Leader:** William Patton, Alcorn Cooperative Extension Program

### FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leader(s)</th>
</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>
</tr>
<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>Project #</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>SARE Support</td>
<td>Project Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<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>
<tr>
<td>FS10-242</td>
<td>Late Summer Crop Development Project</td>
<td>$8,350</td>
<td>Rickey Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS09-236</td>
<td>Building a Market for Local Produce in the Foodservice Industry</td>
<td>$14,965</td>
<td>Andre Mathews Family Farmers Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS05-191</td>
<td>Silvopasture for forage, cattle and trees</td>
<td>$9,995</td>
<td>John Keeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS01-134</td>
<td>Soil nutrient and organic matter improvement and maintenance in a crop rotation system</td>
<td>$6,422</td>
<td>Hilbert W. Gramelspacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS00-113</td>
<td>Developing IPM Practices for Sweet Potatoes in Mississippi</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Allen Crostwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS00-118</td>
<td>Developing Marketing Strategies For Culinary and Medicinal Herbs</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Ben Burkett Indian Springs Farmers Association</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>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>
</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>

**EDUCATION ONLY GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDS22-35</td>
<td>Small Farm IPM Training Workshop For Underserved Communities</td>
<td>$22,838</td>
<td>Dr. Daniel Collins, Alcorn State University, Dr. Tahir Rashid, Alcorn State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDS21-31</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, West Holmes Community Development Organization (WHCDO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDS20-18</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>
</tbody>
</table>

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

$2,925,200

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).