

## 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 \$17.6 million to more than 273 initiatives [1].

### 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...

# North Carolina

Project Highlight: *Local Food Systems as a Means of Positive Change*

For 10 years, the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) worked to evaluate the impacts of local food systems on farm profitability and viability, production practices, distribution networks and the health of local communities. Their belief is that when the distance between consumer and producer decreases, transparency increases and drives changes in the way food is produced. Their decades-long work, however, led to unanswered questions, such as how are consumer values and behaviors impacting the characteristics of the local food system? What are the unintended consequences of localizing food production and consumption?

To find answers, ASAP has received three SARE grants since 2011 to examine the impacts of food system localization on local economies, farm profitability, production practices and health. In their first project they analyzed data and developed a working theoretical framework to understand how and why local food systems can be a means of creating positive food system change. Their two additional projects are 1) studying the impact of farmers' market experiences on participants and their role in building a base of local food and farm supporters, and 2) quantifying the larger economic impact of farmers' markets and looking more closely at their relationship to larger local food system dynamics.

For more information on these projects, see [sare.org/projects](http://sare.org/projects), and search for project numbers [LS11-239](#), [LS14-260](#) and [LS17-285](#).

## SARE in North Carolina

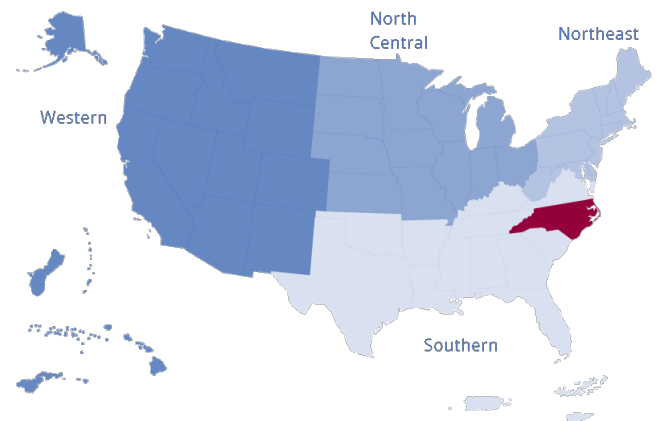
[southern.sare.org/state-profiles/north-carolina/](http://southern.sare.org/state-profiles/north-carolina/)

**\$17,559,142**  
in total funding

**273 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](http://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/)



[1] These totals reflect available data; complete information may not be available for all grant programs prior to 2016.

# SARE in North Carolina, 2020–2025

This is a summary of recent SARE-funded activities and impacts in the state. To search all SARE projects visit [projects.sare.org](https://projects.sare.org). For a list of all projects in this state visit [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/).

## Grants awarded

Total awards: **53 grants**

- 6 Farmer/Rancher
- 8 Research and Education
- 6 Professional Development Program
- 6 On Farm Research/Partnership
- 5 Graduate Student
- 11 Education Only
- 10 PDP State Program [2]
- 1 Meat and Poultry Processing

Total funding: **\$4,547,313**

- \$77,569 Farmer/Rancher
- \$2,568,765 Research and Education
- \$499,036 Professional Development Program
- \$148,531 On Farm Research/Partnership
- \$77,926 Graduate Student
- \$500,709 Education Only
- \$264,777 PDP State Program [2]
- \$410,000 Meat and Poultry Processing

[2] The Professional Development Program (PDP) State Program is a non-competitive award that funds the activities of the state coordinator(s). See more below.

For a complete list of awards by state, visit: [projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/](https://projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/)

## Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

**12,392 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**3,531 farmers reported a change in knowledge, awareness, skills or attitude**

**2,618 farmers changed a practice**



Learn about local impacts at: [southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/north-carolina/](https://southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/north-carolina/)

## 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/north-carolina/](https://southern.sare.org/state-profiles/north-carolina/) to learn more.

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