

www.sare.org

# 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 \$2.3 million to more than 17 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...

# **Oklahoma**

Project Highlight: Growing a Local Understanding of Soil Health

Some farming practices commonly used in Oklahoma have reduced the state's soil quality, leading to soils that are often low in organic matter. To remain productive, attention needs to be placed on improving and monitoring soil quality.

Realizing the importance of such attention, Kefyalew Desta used a SARE grant to obtain local soil quality information and develop a soil quality assessment index that can be used to quantify the overall soil quality status of a farm. As Desta was testing soil properties on-farm, 65 percent of the owners participated in the sampling and discussed the results.

This engagement of the farmers paid off. According to Desta, at the beginning of the project, 65 percent of them did not know the difference between soil health and soil fertility. Following the onfarm sampling and trainings, 80 percent of the farmers are now communicating with ag educators to seek help in soil health analysis. At least 60 percent plan to use on-site soil quality testing as part of their routine soil management. Desta also coordinated in-service trainings and demonstrations, reaching over 200 people.

For more information on this project, see <a href="mailto:sare.org/projects">sare.org/projects</a>, and search for project number <a href="mailto:oS11-058">OS11-058</a>.

#### **SARE in Oklahoma**

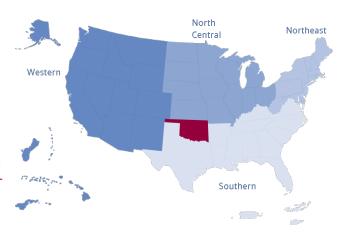
southern.sare.org/state-profiles/oklahoma/

# \$2,331,433 in total funding

#### 17 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Oklahoma grant projects, go to 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 Oklahoma, 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. For a list of all projects in Oklahoma visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

#### Grants awarded

### Total awards: 17 grants

- 2 Farmer/Rancher
- 3 Research and Education
- 1 Professional Development Program
- 10 PDP State Program [2]
- 1 Education Only

### Total funding: **\$2,331,433**

\$45,000 Farmer/Rancher

\$1,896,082 Research and Education

\$75,574 Professional Development Program

\$264,777 PDP State Program [2]

\$50,000 Education Only

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

For a complete list of Oklahoma awards, visit: projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

#### Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

3,897 farmers participated in a SAREfunded project

32 farmers reported a change in knowlege, awareness, skills or attitude

#### 12 farmers changed a practice



Learn about local impacts at: southern.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/oklahoma/

#### **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/oklahoma/ to learn more.

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**USDA** National Institute of Food and Agriculture U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SARE is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).