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 $312 million to more than 7,507 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, granteeproduced information products and other educational materials.

SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

Tennessee

Project Highlight: Cover Crops Help Manage Appletree Borer

The flatheaded appletree borer (FAB) is a significant economic pest in orchards, nurseries and urban landscapes, and in Tennessee’s production nurseries, red maples are one of the most problematic trees for FAB attacks. Determined to find a solution to this problem, Tennessee State University researcher Karla Addesso and her project team used a SARE grant to evaluate the efficacy of applying a winter cover crop to field-grown nursery red maple trees to act as a barrier to FAB oviposition, an aid to preventing leaching of imidacloprid (a commonly used insecticide) from the root zone of the trees, and as a natural weed suppression technique.

After trying a few mixes, the team determined that a ryegrass/crimson clover mix was extremely effective at camouflaging the tree trunks from the pest, making it less likely to lay eggs. The cover crops reduced pest attacks by 95 percent. In addition to acting as a barrier, the cover crop mix also reduced the temperatures of the tree trunks, making the trees a less preferable egg-laying site.

Based on their highly promising results, the team proposes a systems approach to in-field nursery tree production by incorporating a winter cover crop combined with optimized pesticide use to simultaneously maximize FAB control and plant growth while minimizing crop damage, weed competition and insecticide runoff.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects, and search for project number OS14-084.

SARE in Tennessee

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

$2,634,570 in total funding

67 grant projects (since 1988)

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

Total awards: 67 grants
- 23 Farmer/Rancher
- 14 Graduate Student
- 5 On Farm
- 7 Professional Development Program
- 12 Research and Education
- 7 Sustainable Community Innovation

Total funding: $2,634,570
- $229,826 Farmer/Rancher
- $151,561 Graduate Student
- $74,772 On Farm
- $429,818 Professional Development Program
- $1,622,395 Research and Education
- $126,198 Sustainable Community Innovation

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/tennessee

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/tennessee to learn more.

Roy Bullock
Tennessee State University
(615) 963-5449
fbullock@tnstate.edu

Rob Holland
University of Tennessee
(931) 486-2777
rwholland@utk.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.
AGRICULTURE PROJECTS FUNDED IN TENNESSEE
by USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program

Tennessee has been awarded $2,634,570 grants to support 66 projects, including but not limited to, 11 research and/or education projects, 6 professional development projects and 23 producer-led projects. Tennessee 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>
| LS20-335  | Cover Crops and Cropping System Sustainability in a Changing Global Climate   | $299,995     | Dr. Samuel Haruna  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Dr. Song Cui  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Dr. Audrey Gamble  
Auburn University  
Dr. Seockmo Ku  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Dr. Chaney Mosley  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Dr. Edwin Ritchey  
University of Kentucky |
| LS18-287  | Cover Crops in Woody Ornamental Production: Impact on Plant Growth, Arthropod Pests, Soil-Borne Pathogens and Weeds | $284,869     | Dr. Karla Addesso  
Tennessee State University |
| LS13-254  | Improving Fitness in Meat Goat Herds through Better Genetic Management         | $230,000     | Dr. Richard Browning, Jr.  
Tennessee State University |
| LS12-253  | Breeding Organic Corn varieties to resist GMO contamination                    | $48,183      | Dr. Dennis West  
University of Tennessee |
| LS05-172  | Forage systems for the sustainable production of uniform goat carcasses        | $200,000     | Richard Joost  
University of Tennessee at Martin |
| LS03-152  | Improving Organic Crop Production with Enhanced Biofumigation and Composting Systems | $273,440     | Carl Sams  
The University of Tennessee |
| LS03-147  | Bioactive Natural Products: A feasible method of organic disease management in float bed production systems | $19,883      | Kimberly Gwinn  
University of Tennessee |
| LS95-068  | Using Farm Family Studies to Teach Sustainable Agriculture                    | $146,630     | Tim Cross  
University of Tennessee, Ag Economics |
| LS94-064  | Development of Sustainable Area-Wide Weed Management Practices for Improved Land Utilization (AS93-08) | $3,760       | Jerome F. Grant  
University of Tennessee, Entomology & Plant Pathology |
| LS93-052  | Utilization of Dairy Manure in Low-input, Conservation Tillage Animal Feed Production Systems | $90,635      | Michael D. Mullen  
University of Tennessee, Plant and Soil Science |
Influence of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) On Low-input Sustainable Agriculture (LISA) in the Southern Region

$25,000
Charles H. Hadden
University of Tennessee

### 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>ES18-141</td>
<td>Soil SMaRTS (Specific Management and Resources Training for Sustainability) for Soil Health in Tennessee</td>
<td>$77,413</td>
<td>Dr. Jason deKoff, Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES14-121</td>
<td>Sustainable ACEs (Agriculture, Curricula, Energy) for Tennessee</td>
<td>$77,757</td>
<td>Dr. Jason deKoff, Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES03-069</td>
<td>Training Educators to Protect Honey Bee Pollinators with Sustainable Pest Management</td>
<td>$126,648</td>
<td>Dr. John Skinner, Univ. Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES02-061</td>
<td>A Statewide Journey of Sustainable Success: Hands-On Training</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
<td>Rob Holland, Center for Profitable Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES97-029</td>
<td>Implementing Tennessee’s Strategic Plan for Sustainable Agriculture: Utilizing On-Farm Case Studies for Teaching Advanced Management and Marketing to Extension Staff</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Dr. Clark Garland, University of Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LST94-004</td>
<td>Sustainable Dairy Systems Manual and Training</td>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>Dr. Clark Garland, University of Tennessee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FARMER/RANCHER GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
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<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS19-315</td>
<td>A Study of the Effects of Black Woven Polypropylene on Soil Biota</td>
<td>$9,670</td>
<td>Tera Kurtz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS18-310</td>
<td>Increasing Farm Fertility and Profits with Mushroom Mulches</td>
<td>$9,774</td>
<td>David Wells, III, Henosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS17-297</td>
<td>Bacillus thuringiensis var. Israelensis as a Larvacidal on a Rotational Grazing System for Ruminants to Combat Haemonchus contortus</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Jo Ann Harris, Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS17-294</td>
<td>Adaptive Winter Squash</td>
<td>$1,822</td>
<td>Megan Allen, Care of the Earth Community Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS17-295</td>
<td>Incorporating Conservation Solutions into Alternative Crop Transplant Systems</td>
<td>$9,999</td>
<td>Sarah Bellos, Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS12-263</td>
<td>Selective breeding of honey bees for multiple traits with a priority on nosema disease resistance</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Michael Wilson, Rosecomb Apiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS10-241</td>
<td>Sustainable Cultivation of Plant-derived Indigo for Diversification and On-farm Value-added Dye Pigment Production</td>
<td>$9,871</td>
<td>Sarah Bellos, Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS07-214</td>
<td>Sustainable Low-Cost Heating for Season Extension Structures</td>
<td>$14,928</td>
<td>Steve Hodges, Clinch Appalachian Farm Enterprises</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FS07-221  Natural Comb Management of Honey Bees for Varroa Control  $15,000  Michael Wilson
FS06-200  Establishing Natural Controls of Competitive Fungi in the Production of Shiitake Mushrooms  $8,832  James DAy
FS06-203  A Demand-Driven Approach to Specialty Crop Market Development  $12,324  Dianne Levy Appalachian Spring Cooperative
FS05-188  Aquaculturally Derived Products as Fertilizers for High-value Organic Crop Production  $9,953  Marc Cardosa
FS05-189  Salsa Pepper Project  $9,660  Sara Gardner
FS04-181  Selection of Hygienic Honey Bee Queens Resistant to Tracheal Mites  $9,987  Edwin Holcombe
FS02-155  Cooperating for Success: Building a Value-added Marketing Cooperative for Advantage in the Marketplace  $15,000  Paul Miller Appalachian Spring Cooperative
FS02-157  Northern Tennessee Farmer’s Association Cooperative Farmers Market Project  $13,755  Michael Osborne Northern Tennessee Farmer’s Assn. Cooperative
FS01-131  Fungicidal Effects of Compost Tea on Organic Strawberry Production  $9,814  John Dysinger Bountiful Blessings Organic Farm
FS99-087  The Effect of Municipal Compost on Christmas Trees  $6,985  Curtis Buchanan
FS99-103  Evaluating the Cost of Production of Row Crops Using Precision Farming Technologies  $7,816  J. Tucker
FS96-042  Low Input Sustainable Agriculture Short Course  $9,650  Alexander McGregor
FS96-043  Sustainable Cultivation of Medicinal Herbs as a Cash Crop Alternative to Tobacco  $5,004  Paul D. Miller Tamsen Farm
FS96-045  Grazing Alternatives to Tall Fescue for Stocker Cattle  $9,982  Chris Pitts
FS94-012  Swine Lagoon Management System  $10,000  Kenneth Moore

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>SARE Support</th>
<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| GS20-228  | Sustainable Management of Phytophthora Cinnamomi and Ambrosia Beetles Under Stress Conditions | $16,335      | Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel  
Tennessee State University  
Krishna Neupane  
Tennessee State University |
| GS17-168  | Evaluating Soil Microbial Communities and Cropping Systems for Biomass Feedstock Production on Degraded Lands | $14,838      | E. Kudjo Dzantor  
Tennessee State University  
Ekundayo Adeleke  
Tennessee State University |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<th>Project Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GS17-175</td>
<td>Investigating the Impact of Plant Spacing on Yields of Sweet Potato Produced in Organic Systems</td>
<td>$16,443</td>
<td>Dilip Nandwani&lt;br&gt;Tennessee State University&lt;br&gt;Sochinwechi Nwosisi&lt;br&gt;Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS16-155</td>
<td>Sustainable Management of Soil-borne Diseases in Nursery Production</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel&lt;br&gt;Tennessee State University&lt;br&gt;Prabha Liyanapathirananage&lt;br&gt;Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS16-157</td>
<td>Integration of Silvopasture and Nut Production in the Southeast</td>
<td>$7,906</td>
<td>Dr. Hill Craddock&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee at Chattanooga&lt;br&gt;Conrad Blunck&lt;br&gt;Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS14-128</td>
<td>Assessment of beneficial microorganisms: Trichoderma, Actinomycetes, and Bacillus in anaerobic soil disinfestation (ASD)</td>
<td>$10,993</td>
<td>Dr. David Butler&lt;br&gt;The University of Tennessee&lt;br&gt;Utsala Shrestha&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee, Plant Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS13-124</td>
<td>Examining the Influence of Farmers’ Market Managers Perceived Roles on Business Opportunities for Small- and Moderate-size Farms and Access to Healthful Foods for Low-income Households</td>
<td>$6,479</td>
<td>Dr. Deborah Slawson&lt;br&gt;East Tennessee State University&lt;br&gt;Rachel Ward&lt;br&gt;East Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS10-095</td>
<td>Efficacy of entomopathogenic fungi in an integrated pest management plan for cucumber beetles in melons and pumpkins</td>
<td>$8,154</td>
<td>Annette Wszelaki&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee&lt;br&gt;Mary Rogers&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS09-086</td>
<td>Testing the efficacy of three new alternative treatments for Nosema disease of honey bees in Tennessee</td>
<td>$9,963</td>
<td>Dr. John Skinner&lt;br&gt;Univ. Tennessee&lt;br&gt;Paul Rhoades&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS08-077</td>
<td>Providing habitat for native pollinators and determination of native pollinator contribution to pollination of cucurbits and blueberries at farm sites</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Dr. John Skinner&lt;br&gt;Univ. Tennessee&lt;br&gt;Michael Wilson&lt;br&gt;Rosecomb Apiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS04-038</td>
<td>Determining Cost-Effectiveness of Best Management Practices in Sustainable Watershed Management: A Decision-Making Tool for Restoring Bullrun Creek</td>
<td>$9,910</td>
<td>Joanne Logan&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee&lt;br&gt;Candice Jones&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS02-016</td>
<td>Collaborative Learning among Farmers as an Approach to Alternative Agricultural Education</td>
<td>$9,540</td>
<td>John Peters&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee&lt;br&gt;Robin Fazio&lt;br&gt;Sonrisa Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS01-011</td>
<td>Suppression of Soilborne Phytopathogenic Fungi of Tomatoes via Integrated Production Systems that Utilize Biofumigation, Composted Amendments, Solarization, and Chemical Fumigants.</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Carl Sams&lt;br&gt;The University of Tennessee&lt;br&gt;Martin Lyons&lt;br&gt;University of Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS00-002</td>
<td>Control of Soilborne Plant Pathogens of tomatoes with incorporation of Indian Mustard (Brassica juncea)</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Carl Sams&lt;br&gt;The University of Tennessee&lt;br&gt;Stephanie G Harvey&lt;br&gt;Georgia Southwestern State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ON FARM RESEARCH/PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OS18-112</td>
<td>Biofumigants for Sustainable Soil-borne Disease Management in Nursery Production</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>Dr. Fulya Baysal-Gurel&lt;br&gt;Tennessee State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Amblyseius swirksii Athias-Henriot for Control of Arthropod Pests in Woody Ornamental Propagation

Incorporating a Cover Crop into Field Grown Nursery Production to Manage Flatheaded Appletree Borer with the Simultaneous Benefit of Improved and Sustainable Weed Management

Organic forage production systems for organic dairies in the Southern region

Specialty Flowering Bulbs as a Sustainable Alternative Crop for Tobacco Farmers in Middle Tennessee

Building Sustainable Families through a Celebration of Low-Impact and Organic Community-Supported Agriculture

Live Green and Prosper Community Education and Outreach Initiative

"Gathering" of Homestead Economic and Entrepreneurs of Food Based, Organic Foods and Other Related Businesses

"Gathering" of Homestead Economic and Entrepreneurs of Food Based, Organic Foods and Other Related Businesses

Schools + Potatoes Upper E. Tennessee Development System (SPUDS)

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture and Energy Project

Homegrown, From Our Farms to Your Table: Growing a Farmers’ Cooperative in East Tennessee

Total funding from the USDA SARE program to Tennessee $2,634,570

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).