Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

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 $9.3 million to more than 180 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...

Virginia

Project Highlight: *Fighting Downy Mildew with Better Crop Selection*

Seed crop growers of cucumbers, squash, melons, gourds and watermelons have faced severe losses in Virginia from downy mildew. To stem these losses and to reduce the economic impact, seed grower Edmund Frost used a SARE grant to find varieties of melons, cucumbers and winter squash able to withstand downy mildew. By finding such varieties, he could share results with other seed growers and gather information needed to make progress with seed production and breeding of the resistant varieties.

Frost conducted trials that identified 15 cucumber varieties with the ability to produce twice as much as standard varieties labeled “resistant,” 20 winter squash and tropical pumpkin varieties with better downy mildew resistance than other varieties, and several varieties that produce good-quality melons in areas with high downy mildew pressure.

While the identified pumpkin varieties showed downy mildew resistance, there were quality problems that Frost looked at in a second SARE-funded project. Frost made significant progress with three pumpkin varieties and shared the results with growers at two conferences. One of the seeds bred during the project, F6 Seminole-Waltham seed, is now being sold to growers.

For more information on these projects, see sare.org/projects, and search for project numbers FS13-273 and FS16-291.

SARE in Virginia

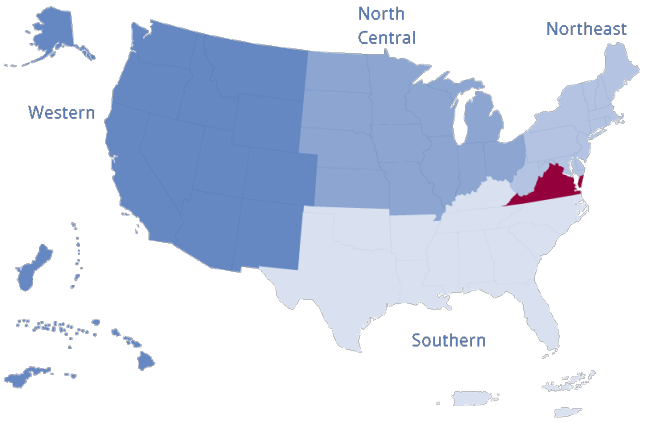
southern.sare.org/state-profiles/virginia/

$9,254,048 in total funding

180 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Virginia 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 Virginia, 2021–2026

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 Virginia visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

Grants awarded

Total awards: **54 grants**

13	Farmer/Rancher
4	Research and Education
3	Professional Development Program
8	On Farm Research/Partnership
13	Graduate Student
11	PDP State Program [2]
1	Education Only
1	Community Foods Project

Total funding: **$3,285,251**

$219,749	Farmer/Rancher
$1,570,869	Research and Education
$224,982	Professional Development Program
$173,057	On Farm Research/Partnership
$252,125	Graduate Student
$294,555	PDP State Program [2]
$49,999	Education Only
$499,915	Community Foods Project

[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 Virginia awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

22,513 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

257 farmers changed a practice

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

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/virginia/ to learn more.

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