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 $10.1 million to more than 236 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...

Indiana

Project Highlight: *Bringing Burgundy Truffles to Indiana*

Mimi Kokoska of Koko Earth Farms in Parke County, Indiana, received a $15,000 NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher grant to establish a truffle-hardwood orchard. The project aimed to introduce cultivation of the Burgundy truffle (Tuber aestivum) in Indiana, creating a new industry while improving soil health, promoting biodiversity, and providing additional income opportunities for local farmers.

The team planted 1,334 inoculated oak trees (bur and English oaks) in a high-density, 11-foot triangular pattern, which helps encourage canopy closure conducive to truffle growth. They also focused on enhancing soil quality by applying lime and planting a custom blend of grasses, forbs, and legumes to improve soil health and provide a favorable environment for truffle production. Despite challenges like drought, wind damage, and weed management, the project successfully laid the foundation for a potential truffle industry in Indiana.

The project has engaged local farmers and agricultural professionals in the process. Over 70 farmers and 10 industry experts participated in events, resulting in four new collaborations, including an additional grant to support the orchard's growth.

"Truffles are highly prized for their umami aroma and flavor," said Kokoska. "A supply of fresh truffles would improve market opportunities, soil health, food systems and quality of life, culinary and gastronomic experiences, agroforestry and tourism in the region."

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number FNC22-1334.

SARE in Indiana

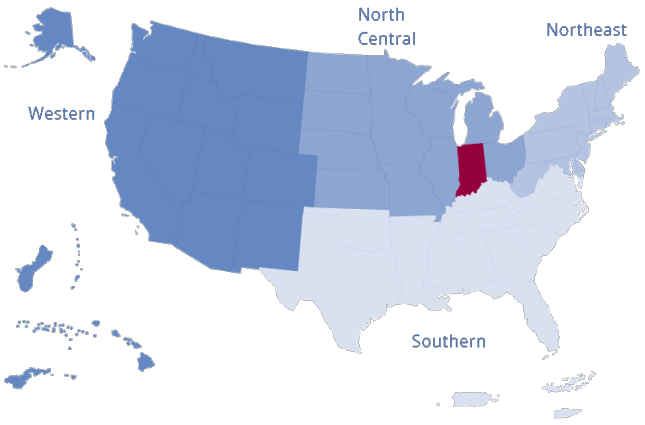
northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/indiana/

$10,097,015 in total funding

236 grant projects

(since 1988 [1])

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

Grants awarded

Total awards: **78 grants**

23	Farmer/Rancher
9	Research and Education
12	Professional Development Program
6	On Farm Research/Partnership
15	Graduate Student
10	Youth Educator
3	PDP State Program [2]

Total funding: **$4,795,768**

$372,096	Farmer/Rancher
$2,237,720	Research and Education
$1,217,941	Professional Development Program
$230,311	On Farm Research/Partnership
$261,937	Graduate Student
$55,763	Youth Educator
$420,000	PDP State Program [2]

[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.

Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

10,656 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project

297 farmers changed a practice



Photo credit: Marie Flanagan

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

Learn about local impacts at:
northcentral.sare.org/state-programs/indiana/

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 northcentral.sare.org/state-profiles/indiana/ to learn more.

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SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
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